HORMAYR AND BOHEMIA: FROM HIS LETTERS TO PALACKÝ

Josef Hemmerle

The rebirth of the Czech nation was furthered at the beginning of the 19th century especially by the Bohemian nobility and a small group of intellectuals. Among these leaders of the national revival were such figures as Dobrovský and Jungmann and, above all, František Palacký, who became the historian of the Czech people. The present contribution attempts to show that the Czech national movement also received outside impulses from the historian and publicist Josef Freiherr von Hormayr, who was active at the time in Vienna and then later on in Munich. This Austrian — one of the most genial figures of the pre-1848 “Vormärz” period in Austria — entered the service of the Bavarians in 1828 because of his strained personal relationship with Metternich. He is regarded as the most important connecting link between Czech romantic nationalism and German romantic historiography. Hormayr’s letters to Dobrovský and Palacký are extant. Those to Palacký which are surveyed here reveal the intensity and degree of lively interest with which this Austrian historian influenced the historiography and scholarly efforts of the Czechs, via the person of Palacký. In his publication organs, especially the Archiv für Geschichte and the Taschenbuch für die vaterländische Geschichte, Hormayr gave continuing, energetic support to the national and cultural development of the Czech people, thus becoming a spiritual champion of their national aspirations. The letters to Palacký show how much Hormayr did to further understanding in the German-speaking areas for the autonomous national life of the Czech people.

THE LANGUAGE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND OF INSTRUCTION IN SLOVAKIA AND THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT

Helmut Slapnicka

The constitution of 4 March 1849 promised the Slovaks equal rights with the other peoples of the Danube monarchy. But their fulfillment was hindered not only by the resistance of the Magyar authorities but also by the lack of unity among the Slovaks themselves on the question of their literary language. While L’udovít Štúr created a Slovak literary language, the two leading Slovak philologists, Jan Kollár and P. J. Šafařík, advocated Czech as a common literary language of the Bohemian and Moravian Czechs and the Slovaks. Kollár and Šafařík managed to win the government in Vienna over to their view, and the official newspaper for the Slovaks, Slovenský noviny, as well as all official proclamations destined for the Slovaks in Upper Hungary henceforth appeared in Czech. The Ministry of Instruction directed that the language used in the
imperial Official Gazette — in other words, Czech — be the language of instruction at Slovak gymnasia and that the textbooks issued for the Czech schools also be utilized in the Slovak schools. The neo-absolutist „Czecho-Slovakism“ was a postulate of Austroslavism, which owed its temporary victory over the Slovak literary language to its function as an instrument for containing the Magyar influence.

J.M. BAERNREITHER AS A SOCIAL POLITICIAN IN OLD AUSTRIA

Harald Bachmann

Joseph Maria Baernreither (1845—1925), the son of a Prague industrialist, was one of the prominent social politicians of the Danube monarchy. After studying law in Prague and Heidelberg, he entered the Austrian judiciary and served as a judge in Prague and Reichenberg. The Reichenberg experience acquainted him with the difficult living conditions and poverty of the factory workers in northern Bohemia. In scientific respects, he threw in his lot with the German academic socialists (Kathedersozialisten), becoming, in particular, a disciple of Lujo Brentano. In 1875 he was called to the Ministry of Justice in Vienna and advanced to the rank of ministerial vice-secretary. Baernreither entered politics in 1878 as a representative in the Bohemian Diet. During these years he commenced his studies of the English workingmen’s associations which were to provide the foundation for his book on these organizations. As a politician, Baernreither’s activity focused mainly on extending social legislation. One of his main successes was a law on labor insurance (a provident-fund law). He attempted to improve the draft law on miners’ insurance and was actively engaged in the reform of the industrial courts. The establishment of the labor statistics office in the Ministry of Trade (1898) was his doing, as was the labor advisory council. Baernreither served as trade minister in 1898, and as minister without portfolio in 1916—17, he prepared the way for a welfare ministry that could still be set up before 1918.

FROM THE WORK OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE IN LONDON

Julius Fírt

The author of this report was a member of the state council of the Czechoslovak government-in-exile in London during the Second World War. Working closely together with Prime Minister Šrámek and Minister Hubert Ripka, he took part in confidential deliberations and had access to documents that were available only to a few Czechoslovak politicians.